



Trail Blazer

Vol. 97 Nos. 2-3 www.trailsclub.org

February / March 2024

MARCH EVENTS

Event information, sign-up and scheduling are available on

TCO Website Calendar

<https://trailsclub.org/activities/calendar>

Meetup

www.meetup.com/Trails-Club-of-Oregon

1-3	Fri-Sat	Tyee is open
5	Tues	Board Meeting
8-10	Fri-Sun	Tyee is open
9	Sat	Bus, snowshoe and dine

TCO Litter Clean Up
Trillium Lake Sno-Park
Saturday, May 18
9:00-1:00

We'll be cleaning up the Sno-Park, the road to Trillium Lake and the surrounding area.

Our volunteer work counts at \$32.27/hr towards our land use fees for Tyee Lodge.

Lunch served after the clean-up



New Years at Nesika. Photo: Helen Wang



New Years Hike. Photo: Nicole Rogers



Welcome New Members!

- Duane Bolland Caryn Crosthwait
- Anton (Tony) Deis Molly Deis
- Robin Deis Walter (David) Letcher

TRAIL BLAZER

Published monthly by the
Trails Club of Oregon
P.O. Box 67095
Portland, OR 97268

Organized 1915

Incorporated 1923

Member of the
Federation of Western Outdoors Clubs (FWOC)

Electronic subscription is included with membership. Send address changes and club correspondence to: Membership@trailsclub.org or the address above.

The purpose of the Trails Club is to foster and stimulate interest in hiking, climbing, skiing, camping and other similar outdoor activities and to promote activities of a social nature for the benefit of its members. The Club's interests and concerns are conservation of natural beauty and resources of the country. All Club activities are affected by the voluntary participation of the members. Membership requirements include an approved outdoor activity, a scheduled lodge visit, recommendations by two members within a one-year period, approval by the Board of Trustees, and payment of \$50 in dues and a \$15 entrance fee.

Board Meetings:

Usually first Tuesday of the month when the date is at least the 4th, 7:00pm, over Zoom. See the calendar on the TCO website for the link if you wish to attend. Contact the President prior to a meeting if you have an issue to bring to the board.

Trails Club of Oregon & Meetup Websites

Our website (TrailsClub.org) is the official site for club events and information. There is also a Trails Club Meetup.com site that allows event planners to organize TCO events online, and publicize these events to a wider audience (Meetup.com/Trails-Club-of-Oregon/events/). However, all events posted on the TCO Meetup site should be added to our TCO website as well.

While we try to get every event in The Blazer and on the Trails Club website (www.trailsclub.org), some events, especially those planned on short notice, may not appear in The Blazer.

Use the Calendar menu item for a listing of events. Registration on the website is not required to view the events.

Also: All may use the Payment menu item on our website to pay your membership dues. You can pay for all members in a household in one transaction.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Beverly Drottar
President
President@trailsclub.org



Jennifer Samuels
Vice President
Blazer Editor
VicePres@trailsclub.org



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Membership Trustee
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Joel Reitz
Publications Trustee
Publication-Chair@trailsclub.org

SocialChair@trailsclub.org



Craig Gwydir
Trips Trustee
TripsChair@trailsclub.org

Board Meeting (Jan 2024)

Board Meeting Minutes | January 9, 2023 7:0-9:00 | Zoom

Attendees:

President:	Bev Drottar
Vice President:	Jennifer Samuels
Treasurer:	Nicole Rogers
Secretary:	Rebecca Knudeson
Publications	Joel Reitz
Membership:	Lori Leach
Tyee Trustee:	Paul Cutter
Nesika Trustee:	Pete Recksiek
Social Trustee:	Vacant
History Committee Chair:	Linda Conrad
Fmr Conservation Chair:	Candace Bonner
Provisional Member:	Dave Letcher

Regular Business: Minutes were approved by email prior to The Blazer publication.

Treasurer's Report, Nicole

Beginning Balance 12/31/23:	\$8,723
Checks and Payments:	\$7,711
Deposits and Credits:	\$2,969
Cleared Balance:	\$3,981

Uncleared Transactions:

Checks and Payment:	\$7,147
Register Balance 12/31/23:	\$3,166

New Transactions:

Deposits and Credits:	\$10,000
Ending Balance:	\$6,834

Our Fidelity investment account value as of 11/30/2023 was \$431,848. We should receive the December statement within the next week or so.

We encountered at least two lost incoming checks in the month of December. This is why our Register Balance as of 12/31/2023 is a negative figure. Both checks were expected around the same time as the post office's busiest holiday shipping deadline. Our checking account balance remained positive despite this issue. Both incoming checks were reissued to us.

Detailed reports for December can be found at: [Monthly Treasurer's Reports - Dropbox](#)

Two new membership applications were added to (uploaded December 11 and January 6): [Membership Applications - Dropbox](#)

We received two new Nesika key applications that can be found at (uploaded December 31): [Lodge Key Request Forms - Dropbox](#)

Membership Report, Lori

Empty Boots: Jane Olsen – Deceased November 26, 2023, Joined April 6, 1985

Provisional: none

First Readings:

Caryn Crosthwait - Sponsored by Craig Gwydir and Nicole Rogers
Walter (David) Letcher – Sponsored by Beverly Drottar and Ron Gladden

Second Readings (all unanimously approved):

Duane Bolland - Sponsored by Nicole Rogers and Linda Conrad
Anton (Tony) Deis – Sponsored by Paul Cutter and Lori Leach
Molly Deis – Sponsored by Paul Cutter and Lori Leach
Robin Deis – Sponsored by Paul Cutter and Lori Leach – Jr Member

Total Membership: 288

8 Golden, 2 Jr., 36 Life, 1 Life/Golden, 10 Provisional, 2 Provisional Jr, 230 Regular

Publications Report, Joel

Nothing to report.

Nesika Report, Paul

This was a busy month for the lodge, as it is usually snowed in this time of year.

Linda Conrad hosted a work trip December 15-17, since drive-in access was available:

- Multnomah Basin road had to be cleared of downed trees (2+ hours) to get access to the lodge
- Christmas ornaments were taken out and festooned around the lodge.
- Inventory was checked for the winter and some consumables restocked.
- Saplings were checked and cleared around the grounds
- Cougar Rock trail was cleared, almost up to the rocky outcrop.
- Wood was split, lodge and dorm restocked
- No dues were collected, as it was a work trip and everyone participated.
- Upon exit, Cindy and Nora's car was trapped between fallen branches and could not go forward or backward, and they did not have a saw. Pete eventually freed them.
- Later that day, Dave, Ron and Ken were locked in accidentally and had to be freed by Candace, who lives relatively close.
- Pete Recksiek hosted a New Years weekend event December 28-Jan 1.
- No snow allowed drive-in access, though Multnomah basin Road had to be cleared again, 2.5 hours to get in
- 14 people attended for various nights (lodge was opened for 4 days)
- \$491 in fees (including 1 new TCO membership, Carl) was collected
- Christmas decorations were put away up in the loft
- 5 diesel cans and a propane cylinder were taken home to be refilled in the spring
- Trail was cleared to Cougar Rock
- Wood was split and restocked
- Door knob on dorm was installed
- Water tank float valve was assessed to be installed in the spring

Tyee Report, Paul

We had a slow start to December with zero snow.

The lodge was opened between Christmas and New Year Holidays. About 15 members and guests were present.

Tyee hosted Trackers NW on the first weekend of January. Forty youth and seven instructors were our guests. The snow started at midnight and never stopped, 24" in 30 hours. They played in the snow, snowshoed and, on Sunday, dug out their 4 vans that had been plowed in.

The Scout lodge was empty. Paul has been told they are limiting the usage of their lodge due to the availability of other facilities. We shall see.

We had a successful and profitable litter pickup on the Wildcat Mountain trailhead in early December. It will significantly defray the lodge fees owed to USFS for 2023. We will do the Trillium Lake trailhead in June.

Trips Report, Craig

There were 2 membership day hikes to Nesika in December. Both trips visited the Ornament Trail where additional ornaments were hung. There was an online Trips Leader meeting. A TCO member requested day trips without dogs to be specified within the hike description. The TCO Trips Chair is investigating the creation of a committee to research/scout day trips as future TCO events. Please contact the TCO Trips Chair for more information. Craig worked a bit on cutting the Elevator Shaft Trail and is looking forward to working on the Cougar Rock Trail.

Social Report

None

Update on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Outreach Activities, Julia Mace via email

No DEI Outreach committee meetings took place in December 2023. A DEI report was provided at the Annual TCO Meeting in November 2023. The next Committee meeting is February 5, 2024 at 7:00pm via Zoom. It is posted on the TCO Calendar, Meetup and in the Blazer. In January Paul Cutter hosted a group of youth from Trackers Earth NW (<https://trackersearth.com/>) at Tyee for the weekend of January 6, 2024.

Julia Mace has communicated with Chrisha at Wild Diversity (<https://wilddiversity.com/>). Julia plans to host Wild Diversity at Nesika on July 12-14 2024 when they have a backpack experience. Chris Seubert will lead some of the Janus Youth Programs Cordero House residents on a day hike through Powell Butte Park on 1/14/24. This coming year he will continue leading and co-leading monthly day hikes with the Cordero House boys at various parts in the region. Our partnerships at this time include: Sierra Club, People of Color Pdx, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Trackers Earth NW. Feel free to reach out to us by email: diversity@trailsclub.org

History Committee, Linda Conrad

Linda will publish her talk from the annual meeting in the Blazer. She needs people to come to Nesika to help place pictures in albums. She's looking for cooks to work at Nesika during history committee weekends.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 501c discussion continued, Lori

Lori had phone meeting with Ben at StartChurch. We need to study the bylaws for needed adjustments. In order to get started, we need to pay StartChurch \$399. Moved, seconded and approved \$399 payment to StartChurch with 1 member abstaining.

Lori, Bev, and Jennifer will comprise a group to work on the 501c3 status. Bev observed that, in general, we need to change some parts of the bylaws to reflect our current practices.

2. Stephen Jenson's offer to connect TCO with organizations interested in sponsoring the club.

Bev met with him and contacted 1 reference. She will continue to be in contact with him. We approved an advisory vote to include paid advertisements in the Blazer for companies/businesses that relate to our activities. Joel pointed out that we already include "ads" for those stores that offer our members discounts.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Conservation chair

Candace Bonner and Linda Conrad presented Dave Letcher for this position. He is attached to

Nesika and enthusiastic/knowledgeable about plant identification, forestry and reforestation. Dave introduced himself and has a connection with Carl Buchanan, a middleman nursery provider, who will sell TCO 200 Pacific silver fir for \$164. Moved, seconded and unanimously approved Dave Letcher as Conservation Chairperson.

2. Moved, seconded and unanimously approved the issue of a Nesika key to Ron Gladden.

3. In the future, lodge chairs will present proposed key holders to the Board for approval.

4. Lodge pricing issues, Paul

Moved, seconded and unanimously approved to charge an additional \$2 per meal beginning in March. An outside group related to our DEI work is interested in using Nesika as a tenting backpack area. At present TCO quotes \$30/night to sleep in a tent. If only the toilets are made available this group, \$30 is a heavy price. The board thinks \$10/night is reasonable if they only get water, restrooms and tent spaces. We will ask the DEI committee to send a proposal next month. At this point we do not have a place for an outdoor fire, although fires are banned in the area during much of the backpack season. Paul and Joel will work out a way for large youth groups to pay correctly on our website.

Adjourned at 8:30

Next meeting, February 6, zoom

Submitted by Rebecca Knudson, Secretary



TCO Winter Games. Photo: Sheryl Wagner



Larch Mountain Hike. Photo: Craig Gwydir



Lacamas Creek Hike. Photo: Nicole Rogers



Kids Stay Free at Tyee. Photo: Paul Williamson

February 2024 History Report

The Trails Club of Oregon was instituted in 1915 and incorporated in 1923. In 1923 the property in the Gorge was attained for the building of our lodge, Nesika. The building was erected in one year with the help of a very active club.

Our club has a liberal and hospitable policy of entertaining invited guests who are welcome to participate as if they belonged to our club.

Essentially, we are a hiking organization who has prided itself in the high standards of its membership. Our members are of good character, industrious, democratic, sociable, and interested in preservation of our natural beauties and acquainted with them.

The Club emanated from a Larch Mountain setting and background. It is said that is because we feel the spell of Larch Mountain.

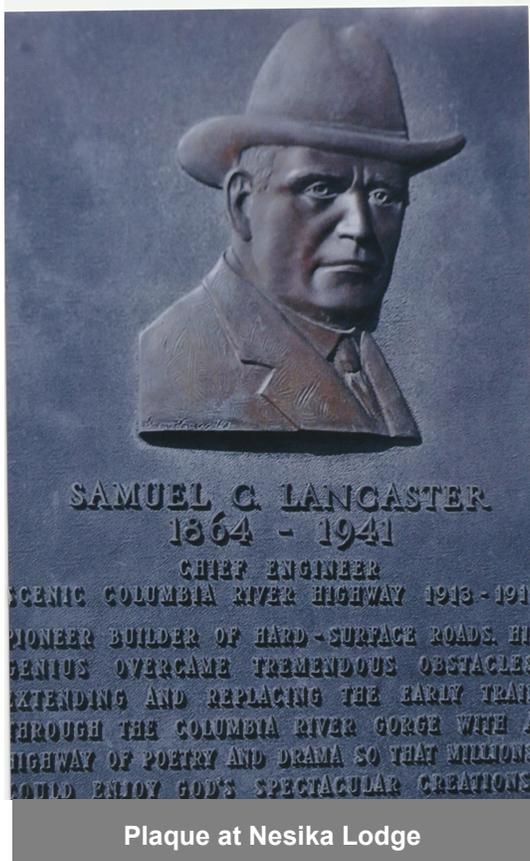
The history of the club begins with a lantern slide lecture delivered by Samuel C. Lancaster, an American Engineer and Architect, before the Progressive Businessmen's Club of Portland Oregon on January 28, 1915. At this meeting in attendance was Henry Hayek, a lunch clubber extraordinary who proposed that the Progressive Business Man's Club progress by undertaking to make this great footstool of Mt Hood accessible to the scenery and hungry public and by its fame. On March 14, 1915 a group of business men drove to Palmer Mill Road spent the night and the next morning they walked over the ridge to Big John Creek and down the canyon to the crest of Multnomah Falls. They then traveled down the cliff to the railway station at the bottom of the falls. The very next weekend Hayek and a party of eight ascended Larch Mountain and planned a site for an observation tower and lodge. Cost for the lodge atop Larch Mountain and the lookout was estimated at \$6,000. The Forest Service allocated \$1,000 for the trail and \$100 for the tower. Simon Benson donated \$3,000. Other donations met the sum; from the Mazamas and other organization and fundraisers. The Larch Mountain trail was finished and dedicated in October of 1915. Samuel Lancaster was elected President of the Trails Club and rules were drawn up for membership. Dues would be set at \$1 a year. October 15, 1915 was established as the birthdate of the club.

Samuel Hill's vision and Samuel Lancaster's engineering resulted in the construction of the great Columbia River Highway. Another important member was Samuel Jackson the Publisher of the Oregon Journal. These three men outlined plans for promoting and building the first great highway in the Oregon Country. The first unit being the 39 miles in Multnomah County ending in Cascade Locks, which cost an estimated \$1,700,000. Samuel Hill had just finished the rail line between Spokane and Portland. Simon Benson, a timber baron who bought Wahkeena and Multnomah Falls, donated them to the city of Portland. At this time Wahkeena and Multnomah Falls area was called Benson Park. It was determined by the club that the lodge on Larch was too small. Herman Erren, George Bickel and Fred Steeble searched for a year and found the site for Nesika. The Nesika property was purchased on September 5, 1923 from Evelyn Nicolai for \$500. It was 120 acres. Ground was broken on June 26, 1923. The First Lodge was finished a year later in 1924.

In 1977 the Trails Club of Oregon because of financial stress exchanged 80 acres of land to the Forest Service for revenue derived from the sale of lumber on national forest lands.

In February 1978 the Forest Service wanted to close the Multnomah Basin Road permanently to public travel. The Forest Service and the Trails Club of Oregon came to an agreement and the Forest Service granted a permit for access to the Trails Club of Oregon if the TCO agreed to assume all road and bridge maintenance and liability for persons entering the area.

My comment to this history, is to create an understanding in the club that Nesika has and will remain the mother of the club. In the future my wish is that the board and members will spend more time promoting the lodge and its use. It is a very special place that many people have fought to promote and preserve.
Linda Conrad, Historian



Plaque at Nesika Lodge



Nesika Lodge, 1924



First Lodge on Larch Mountain



Larch Mountain Lookout Tower

Board Meeting (Feb 2024)

Board Meeting Minutes | January 9, 2023 7:0-9:00 | Zoom

Attendees:

President:	Bev Drottar
Treasurer:	Nicole Rogers
Secretary:	Rebecca Knudeson
Publications	Joel Reitz
Membership:	Lori Leach
Tyee Trustee:	Paul Cutter
Nesika Trustee:	Pete Recksiek
Trips Trustee:	Craig Gwydir
Social Trustee:	Vacant
DEI Committee Chair:	Julia Mace
Nominating Comm Chair:	Julia Mace

Absent:

Vice President: Jennifer Samuels

Regular Business: Minutes were approved by email prior to The Blazer publication.

Treasurer's Report, Nicole

Jan 31, 2024

Beginning Balance:	\$3,981
Checks and Payments:	\$7,159
Deposits and Credits:	\$14,710
Cleared Balance:	\$11,533

Complete reports can be found by the Board in Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/Trustees%20Share/Monthly%20Treasurer's%20Reports>

One new membership application was uploaded January 28: Membership Applications - Dropbox
A particularly noteworthy item: We received an anonymous donation *in recognition of TCO Trips Leaders* in the amount of \$200 to cover the cost of the silver fir trees that are to be planted at Nesika this year.

Membership Report, Lori

First Readings:

Carl Buchanan, sponsored by Pete Recksiek and Helen Wang
Juergen Steinhart, sponsored by Paul Cutter and Craig Gwydir

Second Readings:

Caryn Crosthwait, sponsored by Craig Gwydir and Nicole Rogers
Walter (David) Letcher, sponsored by Beverly Drottar and Ron Gladden

154 members have paid 2024 dues.

Total membership: 285

8 Golden, 2 Junior, 35 Life, 1 Life/Golden, 3 Provisional, 1 Provisional Jr, 235 Regular

Publications Report, Joel

Due to a time crunch, Jennifer is going to combine the January/February Blazers.
We now have a 20% discount on purchases from Six Moons.

Nesika Report, Pete

There is little to report for January as the weather has made access difficult (Multnomah Lodge flooded and the lot has been closed). No one has been up until this weekend, as far as Pete knows.

Tyee Report, Paul

The month started with 40 youth and 8 adults from Trackers NW. Then the big freeze hit. The water valve that was installed in 2022 froze and broke. Unfortunately, Sheryl was first to encounter the problem. A work around has been created: the damaged valve is left in the open position (not leaking), and the outside valve is now the shut-off valve. To maintain access, Bill Rude and Paul built a makeshift shelter to keep the snow off and the valve accessible. It is Paul's intention to make a permanent shelter to maintain access to the outside valve in all seasons. Joel has ordered a replacement valve. Apart from this problem, there are no problems at the lodge. The furnace is working well. Snow level is historically low, 12" at the lodge. Oregon Hikers and Climbers rented the lodge last weekend with \$900 billed and paid.

We'll probably do the Trillium Lake clean up on May 18 instead of June because of the low snow level.

Trips Report, Craig

January was a slow month with one day hike and one online trip leaders meeting. There is interest among TCO members to organize a summertime "Bull Run Watershed tour" with the Portland Water Bureau, as we did in 2023. Craig Gwydir will organize the event. There was discussion of planning TCO events at Nesika and Tyee during warmer months. TCO members (and non-members) are always welcome to join our monthly online "TCO Trips Leaders Meeting" to hear about future events and discuss ideas about trips. These online meetings (1 hr) are posted on the TCO Meetup page.

Social Report, none

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Outreach Activities, Julia Mace

The DEI committee held a Zoom meeting on 2/5/24. 7 people attended. They have developed 2 documents, one an overview of their work and, the other, a form for interested community members who want to connect with the TCO. The board discussed the possibility that lodge fees might prohibit some groups from using our lodges. The DEI committee wants to explore creating a "sponsor pool" to provide a way for people to contribute to help cover fees for such groups. The board supports this effort.

The board unanimously approved the use of Nesika by Wild Diversity, hosted by Julia Mace, July 12-14, 2024. They plan to backpack in. Emails have been sent to Nesika chair, Pete R, and VP, Jennifer S. The group will be between 8-12 adults. Julia proposed a discounted rate for this group based on their expressed concern that finances are a barrier for many participants and that Wild Diversity does NOT turn anyone away based on ability to pay. The board asked that she submit a request stating their needs.

OLD BUSINESS

501c3 Discussion

Startchurch meeting is scheduled for Feb 28 at noon. Lori, Bev and Rebecca will attend.

Follow up on Stephen Jenson's offer to look for sponsorship of us as a club. Bev will keep us updated on any more developments.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Letcher has volunteered for the Conservation chair. He was unanimously approved by the board. Nesika Keys for Ron Gladden and Dave Letcher were approved. Bev will notify them.

Approved a bylaw change to present to the membership at the next annual meeting: amend the 4 mile requirement for membership so differently abled people might be able to join TCO.

Lori moved that we temporarily adjust our bylaws (Article 2 Section 3 paragraph B) as follows: An applicant for membership may volunteer to participate for at least 4 hours in any Club sponsored activity in place of the 4 mile hike requirement. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25

Next meeting: Tuesday March 5, 7-9pm, zoom

Submitted by Rebecca Knudson, Secretary



TCO Winter Games. Photo: Rachel Cherry



Secret Hike. Photo: Craig Gwydir

Reminders

For activities such as bicycle, snowshoe, and XC skiing check with the leaders for the difficulty level. Good equipment for the specific activity is required for all events. For hikes, snowshoes:

Class A - Shorter, less strenuous activity, typically 4 to 8 miles, less than 1500 feet elevation gain.

Class B - Moderate to difficult, typically 6 to 12 miles, up to 3000 feet of elevation gain.

Class C - Long and difficult, strong experienced participants only, typically over 8 miles, and over 3000 feet of elevation gain. Boots are recommended for B/C hikes.

Harsh conditions may increase the exertion and skill required; be prepared. Contact the trip leader if you have any questions and to let him or her know that you will be attending. Bring the 10 Essentials and please, no alcohol. Pets allowed on designated trips only.

Stay with the group and follow the leader. The leader is responsible for the group's safety. The leader determines which route is taken. The leader has authority to determine if a participant is prepared for the activity. Group safety must come first.

Fees

There is no charge to Trails Club members for day activities; non-members pay \$2. Please contribute to any carpooling expenses at the rate of \$.15 per mile. With multiple riders the driver can collect up to \$.30 per mile shared by all the riders. Other fees may apply.

If you have RSVP'd for an activity at a lodge involving food expense and are unable to participate, you are obligated to do one of the following: Cancel before the food is purchased, find someone to take your place, or pay for your share of the food.

All activities must be approved by the appropriate activity Coordinator or the Trips Trustee.

Newsletters

Send write-ups to: blazer@trailsclub.org

Submissions are due by the fifteenth of the month prior to publication.

Send pictures, new events, corrections and anything else for the Trails Club of Oregon website to: webmaster@trailsclub.org

Blazer Editor: Jennifer Samuels